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COUNTRY East Germany REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from Magdeburg

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REFERENCES

PAGES 5 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

1. On 7 November 1953, the Anger Kaserne in Magdeburg was occupied by about 1,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets including some with artillery and motor transport insignia. On 4 November, about 40 trucks, 13 x 45-mm AT guns and about 80 soldiers were seen in the billeting area. The troops were engaged in maintenance duty. Other soldiers practiced driving with 8 to 10 trucks.
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2. On 7 November, the Hindenburg Kaserne was still occupied by about 800 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank insignia and black-bordered crimson epaulets. On 3 November, 4 JS-2 tanks, 3 T-34/85 tanks and about 100 soldiers were seen in the billeting area. The troops engaged in close-order drill.
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3. On 7 November, the Seeckt Kaserne was occupied by about 1,000 to 1,200 troops who wore black-bordered black epaulets. On 2 and 6 November, about 200 soldiers engaged in bridge construction at the old Elbe River near the barracks installation. Fifty pontoons and 7 pneumatic rafts were seen nearby. Trucks subsequently crossed the river via the completed bridge. About 120 soldiers drilled in the billeting area and about 20 other soldiers painted pontoons.
4. On 7 November, the Flak Kaserne was occupied by about 1,400 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia. On 3 November, about 18 heavy machine guns and about 26 AA guns, apparently 37-mm guns, were seen in the billeting area. The AA guns and about 60 trucks were parked in sheds. About 200 soldiers engaged in maintenance work on motor vehicles and fatigue duty and about 100 other soldiers engaged in close-order drill.
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5. On 3 November, the Flak Kaserne was occupied by 4,000 to 4,500 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia and black-bordered crimson epaulets and, apparently, included about 1,000 troops who belonged to a rifle unit. This unit was said to have moved into the Flak Kaserne between 27 and 30 October. On 27 and 31 October, about 160 trucks including about 50 half-track vehicles were parked in the barracks area.  the vehicles to belong to the new unit.<sup>1</sup>
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On 27 and 31 October, about 150 to 200 soldiers practiced with 10 x 35-mm, 8 x 76-mm and 8 x 37-mm AA guns. About 60 x 35-mm AA guns were parked in low, temporary wooden buildings. There was intensive vehicular traffic through the main and side entrance of the installation on 27 and 31 October.

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6. On 3 November, the Seeckt Kaserne was occupied by about 1,200 to 1,300 troops who wore black-bordered black epaulets. The troops had returned to the installation between 31 October and 1 November. On 1 November, about 30 vehicles with pontoons and several truck columns were observed in the yard. No training activity was noticed.

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7. On 3 November, the Hindenburg Kaserne was occupied by about 1,800 troops who wore blue-bordered black epaulets with signal insignia and about 400 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets with motor transport insignia. Training and radio activity were held in three low, wooden temporary buildings behind the administrative building. On 1 November, signal troops practiced in the terrain and constructed field cables in the training area northeast of the barracks installation.

8. On 3 November, the Nachrichten Kaserne was still occupied by about 2,000 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. Side entrance No 17 was opened again.

9. An AAA emplacement with 3 x 85-mm and 3 x 37-mm AA guns was located along the east side of the Flak Kaserne. A radar set was stationed about 120 meters northeast of the AAA emplacement.

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10. At about 2:30 p.m. on 30 October, 4 T-34/85 tanks which were apparently new, were unloaded at the Friedrichstadt railroad station in Magdeburg, and subsequently driven to the Herrenkrug Kaserne. At about 2 p.m. on 31 October, 4 x 100-mm AT guns, 5 half-track vehicles and about 40 trucks, most of them with billeting equipment and another 5 trucks loaded with ammunition were unloaded at the Friedrichstadt railroad station. Sedan stood near the loading ramp.

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11. On 25 October, a large number of trucks and several radio trucks were seen in the western section of the Flak Kaserne.

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12. On 3 November, the Anger Kaserne and Herrenkrug Kaserne were occupied. A truck column left the

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Anger Kaserne toward the town, with each truck being occupied by about 10 to 15 unarmed soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets. The following

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At about 7:30 a.m. on 4 November, 1,000 to 1,500 troops assembled in front of the quarters in the Herrenkrug Kaserne.

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13. On 4 November, the Nachrichten Kaserne was occupied to capacity.

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14. Between 24 October and 4 November, sedan [ ] occupied by a general, was frequently seen in town. The sedan was apparently parked in the Pioneer Kaserne.

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15. On 4 November, the Seeckt Kaserne was occupied to capacity. All quarters were lighted at dusk. Vehicles including trucks with hoisting gears of the engineer unit in the Seeckt Kaserne were parked in the Zuckertusch Kaserne. Trucks [ ] were [ ] in traffic to and from the Seeckt Kaserne.

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16. On 4 November, the Zuckertusch Kaserne was not occupied. Vehicles of the engineer unit in the Seeckt Kaserne were parked in the garages of the Zuckertusch Kaserne. The gate at the northeastern corner of the installation had been replaced by a new one.

17. At about noon on 24 October, many officers entered or left the Bismarck Schule. An officers' briefing had apparently been held. About 25 to 30 sedans and trucks were parked in front of the school. Officers of all branches of service were later seen departing with these vehicles. [ ]

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18. At 12:30 p.m. on 31 October, a train of 4 boxcars and 23 flatcars carrying materiel including 4 half-track vehicles and 4 x 100-mm AT guns passed through the Magdeburg-Buckau railroad station from the direction of the Magdeburg-main railroad station and proceeded in the direction of Schoenebeck. [ ]

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19. On 8 November, the Encke Kaserne was occupied to capacity. Almost all quarters were lighted at dusk. Individual rifle firing was heard from the direction of the barracks yard on 6 November. [ ]

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Most of the vehicles were occupied by field-grade officers.

20. On 8 November, the Seeckt Kaserne was occupied by about 1,800 troops who wore black-bordered black epaulets. At dusk, 6 quarters were fully lighted and one building only partially. About 130 trucks and 4 trucks with hoisting gears were parked in the garages and about 30 trucks in the barracks yard. Between 31 October and 4 November, 30 to 40 soldiers with black-bordered black epaulets constructed two new obstacle courses on Kleiner Anger.

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21. On 8 November, the Zuckerbusch Kaserne was occupied by about 100 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets with medical insignia. Only some of the quarters were lighted at dusk. Lean-to roofs were constructed in the eastern section of the Zuckerbusch Kaserne. Eight prime movers were parked in the lower section of the billeting area. Storerooms were apparently on the second floor. On 7 November, about 40 soldiers with black-bordered black epaulets piled up beams and planks and wood saws on the engineer storage place in the eastern section of the installation. About 9 trucks were parked under lean-to roofs.
22. On 8 November, the Nachrichten Kaserne was occupied by about 1,500 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets. Four of the buildings were fully lighted and one building only partially. On 4 and 7 November, soldiers re-reeled heavy field cables. On 7 November, about 60 soldiers moved into the installation from the direction of Grosser Angar. [redacted]
- 25X1 [redacted]
- 25X1 [redacted]
23. On 8 November, the Flak Kaserne was occupied by about 1,500 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets and about 300 troops who wore black-bordered crimson epaulets. Buildings No 4 through 11 were fully lighted at dusk. On 26 October, about 80 soldiers were seen engaged in firing practice on the target range at the extension of Zippkeleber Weg and 76-mm AA guns were observed in the AAA emplacement east of the athletic field. On 4 November, about 80 soldiers practiced with 5 x 37-mm AA guns and 3 x 76-mm AA guns in the barracks yard. On 4 and 7 November, about 400 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery and tank insignia, blue-bordered black epaulets and black-bordered crimson epaulets fell in on the athletic field while about 50 trucks were lined up east of the sporting grounds. Groups of about 20 unarmed soldiers, escorted by officers, and carrying suitcases had arrived by street car. [redacted]
- 25X1 [redacted]
- 25X1 [redacted]
24. On 8 November, the Herrenkrug Kaserne was almost fully lighted after nightfall.
25. On 8 November, the Anger Kaserne was occupied by about 1,200 troops who wore red-bordered black and green-bordered olive epaulets with medical-service insignia. On 25 October, 30 trucks were seen in the billeting area. On 8 November, 5 T-34 tanks were seen south of the barracks installation. About 10 trucks were parked under a lean-to roof. On 26 October, rifle reports were heard from the billeting area and, on 7 November machine gun fire. [redacted]
- 25X1 [redacted]
- 25X1 [redacted]
- 25X1 [redacted]
1. [redacted] Comment. The arrival of the Hv AT artillery regiment of the 20th Army AT Arty Brig (US), which transferred from Brandenburg to Magdeburg in three shipments on 31 October was covered by [redacted] paragraph 10 and 18. The unit which, according to paragraph 5, was said to have moved into the Flak Kaserne between 27 and 30 October is believed to have been the afore-mentioned regiment. Motor vehicle [redacted] according to paragraph 11, was among those moving along Thaelmann Strasse toward the Flak Kaserne on 31 October belongs to the 20th Army AT Arty Brig (US). In connection with the information in paragraph 10, there is hardly any doubt that the regiment moved into the Flak Kaserne.

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- 25X1 2. [ ] Comment. Units in the Flak Kaserne include the entire 3d Gds AAA Div the equipment of which, however, is believed to include only 48 x 85-mm or 76-mm AA guns. [ ]
- 25X1 3. [ ] Comment. According to corresponding information, the 36th Pon Bridge Regt of the GOFU returned to Magdeburg from summer training in the Dessau area already on 18 October. The general mentioned in paragraph 14 rode a sedan of this regiment. There is the possibility that one Colonel Morgunov (fnu) who, according to a document of March 1953, was determined as commander of the regiment, has in the meantime been promoted.
- 25X1 4. [ ] Comment. On the basis of the present and previous information, Soviet units in Magdeburg are stationed as follows, with the parenthesized serial numbers of the barracks installations given according to the Installations List:
- Ecke Kaserne Hq Third Shock Army and army headquarters units
- 25X1 [ ]
- Herrenkrug and Anger Kaserne Units of the 19th Gds Mecz Div, including division headquarters, the 62d Gds Mecz Regt, the 112th Mtrcl Bn; and, presumably, the 26th Gds Tank Regt, the unidentified signal battalion and the unidentified medical battalion
- 25X1 [ ]
- Hindenburg Kaserne Probably, the 105th Sig Regt, the unidentified signal battalion, the 223d Motor Trans Bn and all headquarters units of the Third Shock Army
- 25X1 [ ]
- Nachrichten Kaserne The 63 Gds Mecz Regt
- 25X1 [ ]
- Seeckt Kaserne The bulk of the 36th Pon Bridge Regt of the GOFU
- 25X1 [ ]
- Zuckerbusch Kaserne Army medical depot of the Third Shock Army and equipment depot of the 36th Pon Bridge Regt from the Seeckt Kaserne
- 25X1 [ ]
- Flak Kaserne The 3d Gds AAA Div, the unidentified Hv AT Arty Regt of the 20th Army AT Arty Brig (US) and, presumably elements of the 19th Gds Mecz Div, including artillery units.
- 25X1 [ ]
- 25X1 The strength estimates [ ] can be taken as a working hypothesis as the actual strengths, in most cases, have probably been underestimated. For instance, the Flak Kaserne, according to paragraph 4, was occupied by 1,400 troops and, according to paragraph 23, by 1,500 troops while, on the basis of the afore mentioned list, the Flak kaserne quarters at least 3,000 troops.

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